

Meeting with Mr. Bruno Lasserre, President, French Competition Authority

Wednesday, 19th December 2012 | Jaipur

Background

CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CCIER) organised a meeting with Mr Bruno Lasserre, President of the Conseil de la concurrence (French Competition Authority), on Wednesday, December 19th, 2012 to interact, share experience and shed light on the work done by CUTS in the competition sphere.

Welcome

The meeting commenced with Bipul Chatterjee, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International, welcoming Mr. Lasserre and giving a brief introduction of Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) and its area of work and competencies. This was followed by the introduction of the CUTS staff present in the meeting. He also shared the length and breadth of the CUTS work. Bipul Chatterjee asked Mr. Lasserre to share about the work of French Competition Authority together with the state of competition assessment scenario in France and Europe in general.



President Lasserre with CUTS team

Opening Remarks

In his opening remarks, Mr. Bruno Lasserre shed light on the work of French Competition Authority and the functionality of the Commission. He shared some cases and examples handled by Competition Authority. Mr. Lasserre mentioned about European Competition Network (ECN) of which the French Competition Authority is a member. He talked in detail about the underlying model of the ECN and how this model is instrumental in providing consistency in implementing competition principles and conducting competition assessments pan Europe. Rijit Sen Gupta, Director, Africa Resources Centre, CUTS International opined that it will be useful to emulate European Competition Network (ECN) model in some of the trade blocks especially in underdeveloped and developing countries like East African Community etc. Mr. Lasserre also suggested that CUTS should be a part of International Competition Network (ICN) as a Non-Governmental Advisory Agency (NGA's) and support as an academic agency.

Rijit Sen Gupta also informed that CUTS is in the process of launching a new initiative in East African Countries in which the idea of regional competition networks like the ECN can be introduced.

Following that, two other programmatic centre of CUTS was introduced to the guest

Brief Introduction

- Archana Jatkar, Coordinator & Deputy Head, CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) made a presentation on the work of CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CITEE). She mentioned about the Brief History and the mission of this CUTS centre. She also shared how the work is carried out in CUTS CITEE with participatory research, advocacy and networking. She mentioned about the past and on-going projects of CITEE. She also highlighted the objectives and achievements of the center.
- Om Prakash Arya, Project Coordinator, CUTS CART briefed Mr. Lasserre and the team about the CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CART). He mentioned about the functional areas of CUTS CART, i.e. Good Governance and Consumer Protection & Education. He also spoke about the on-going projects which are being handled by CUTS CART at state, national and international level.

Overview of CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation (CUTS CCIER)

Natasha Nayak, Policy Analyst, CUTS CCIER made a presentation on the functionality and work area of CUTS CCIER. She gave a brief introduction of Centre for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation (CCIER) and mentioned about the history of engagement of CCIER

with various competition issues and its mission. She shared with Mr. Lasserre and the team about the past and on-going projects of CCIER.

It was mentioned to Mr Lasserre that the idea behind engaging with advocacy on economic regulation is to enhance the capacity of CSO's and to see how they engage with regulators. Responsible corporate conduct or responsible business behaviour is an upcoming area which is gaining recognition in the area of investment climate in India and CCIER has already began work with a project on business regulation and corporate conduct. He was informed about various publications, impact and achievements of CCIER. Natasha mentioned about Competition toolkit prepared by CUTS-CCIER. Mr. Lasserre has shown interest in competition toolkit and informed that they are also going to disseminate an OECD Competition Impact Assessment toolkit during the OECD GFC next year.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Lasserre appreciated the CUTS efforts and the work done by its various departments. He suggested that CUTS CCIER will be involved in the peer review of Countries Competition Policy & Law. And he hopes to interact with CUTS in future endeavours in order to take the agenda of Competition Policy & Law forward.

RSG presented Mr. Lasserre some of the publications and Brochures of CUTS International and the entire CUTS team thanked Mr. Lasserre for sharing his knowledge and experience with the group.